



24th February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The following information has come in today with regards to 6th year daltaí returning on Monday 1st March and also on State Examinations 2021.

1. Return of 6th year daltaí on Monday 1st March

- New (NPHET) work safety protocol document together with DoES and TUI plan for phased re-opening of schools are the documents guiding this phase of return.
- Parents of students under 18 and students over 18 have been sent HSE COVID-19 declaration form. I will be here on Monday morning at the front door to collect these forms. Any dalta without a form will be sent home.
- All daltaí must as usual wear a face mask while inside the school building.
- Teachers who are certified high risk, very high risk, over 60 years old or pregnant must continue to teach remotely. Live classes will be streamed into classrooms. A supervising teacher will be assigned to these classes.
- Daltaí who are certified 'very high risk' can remain at home. Certification must be submitted to the school. A home-school liaison teacher will be appointed to link in with these students ensuring that they get classwork from their teachers.
- HSE have confirmed that contact tracing for schools is back up and running. With a dedicated line for school principals.
- Testing will be on day 0 with second test on day 10. Students/staff can return on day 10 with a negative result.

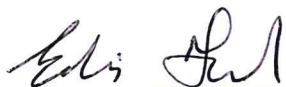
2. State examinations and accredited grades

- Students will have the option of whether to sit the examinations, receive SEC Accredited Grades, or both, on a subject by subject basis.
- Students who opt for both will have their better grades in each subject reflected in their results.
- Students will be required to register on the student portal; confirm their subject and level entry details; opt for the examinations and/or to receive SEC Accredited Grades. The SEC's Candidate Portal is expected to open in the week of 8 March 2021 to allow students to make their choices.
- There will be no fees payable for the 2021 examinations and no fees for SEC Accredited Grades.

- It is intended that the results of both the examinations and the SEC Accredited Grades processes will issue to students within the required timeframe for progression to higher and further education in Ireland.
- The timetables for the written Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied examinations have been published and were issued to CNI daltaí last week.
- Examinations will commence on 9 June 2021.
- Changes have been made to Leaving Certificate examination to give greater choice to students.
- Oral examinations will be arranged by schools during the Easter period and shortly after, outside tuition time and subject to public health advice. Teachers from within the school or sourced locally will conduct these exams. Recordings of orals will be sent to the SEC for grading.
- Coursework will proceed in subjects where it forms a normal part of the examination. Additional time will be provided by the SEC for completion of this work. Deadlines for these components will be issued to schools in the coming weeks.
- In a small number of subjects, it will not be possible to proceed with additional assessment components given public health considerations (e.g. practical construction studies exams). Further details will be advised by the SEC shortly.
- It will not be possible to mix elements of accredited grades with components of examinations.
- As part of the process, schools will provide the SEC with school-estimated marks in all subjects for all students. These marks will be provided following an in-school alignment process and approval at school level.
- A national standardisation process will take place. The process will not use historical school by school data on past performance in Leaving Certificate Examinations.
- Data on the Junior Cycle performance of the Leaving Certificate class of 2021, recent national Leaving Certificate results data and the national distribution of students' results may form part of this process.
- Students will continue to be taught in schools up until the end of the final term which will finish some days earlier than usual.
- Details of the new finish date will be given as soon as possible. This is to allow teachers and schools time to finalise their elements of the SEC Accredited Grades process.

Should you have any questions in relation to either of these items, please email me on eflood.cni@lmetb.ie and I will be happy to answer any questions.

Is Mise Le Meas,



Eilís Flood